

I have been battling the AT&T telemarketers for a while. It started several weeks ago with them calling with the typical "switch to us" pitch, which I politely said no to. The telemarketer then hung up on me which made me think that was the end of it. 2 days later I received another call while having dinner with my family from the AT&T telemarket people. At that time I told them that I was not interested in switching to their service. As I was about to tell them to please remove me from their calling list, I was hung up on. This persisted for about a week (with them hanging up on me before I could tell them to remove me from the calling list), until finally I was able to get them to listen to me. Thinking that it was then over, since I asked them not to call me again and asked to be removed from their list, I received 3 more calls from them. Finally, I asked to talk to a supervisor and told him that if I was bothered one more time I would file a harassment lawsuit against AT&T. Since then I have not received a call, but I have no doubt that given a couple of months they will start up again. I also ran into the exact same problem with the Association of Virginia State Police who called requesting donations and continued to call even when asked to stop. These are the most recent incidents that I have run into and they are very tiring since the telemarketers call at the worst possible time. I, like most people in this country, work hard all week long, so when I finally get home or have a chance to relax and am forced to constantly get up to answer these telemarketing, computer-dialed, or hang up calls, it makes me look negatively upon the companies that they represent. The concept of having to pay a phone company money so they block those calls amounts to extortion such as any street thug might do. After all, A street thug asking for "protection" money so his associates don't beat up the target is no different than the phone companies asking for money to stop the unsolicited phone calls. I fully support the idea of a national list for people who do not want to be bothered by those calls. I also think that something needs to be done about companies selling personal information about their customers/associates. After all, if I were to go out and share Confidential information about a company with anyone who wanted it I would be sued with trespassing, harassment, and any number of other laws that the companies could find. I think that the time for double standards in America has come to and end.